

# **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS, COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES**

## **Voting Members:**

Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair; Trevor Ozawa, Vice Chair;  
Brandon J.C. Elefante, Ernest Y. Martin, Kymberly Marcos Pine

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**ADVANCE COPY**

Committee Meeting Held  
February 7, 2017

Honorable Ron Menor  
Chair, City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Parks, Community and Customer Services, which considered Resolution 17-39 entitled:

"RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION MAINTAIN  
THOMAS SQUARE AS A PUBLIC PARK,"

introduced on February 1, 2017, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the City Administration to maintain Thomas Square as a public park in accordance with HRS Section 46-65.6, to ensure that Thomas Square can be enjoyed as a public park by visitors and residents for generations to come.

The Director of Enterprise Services testified in support of the Resolution stating that Thomas Square will continue to be a passive park even if the management of Thomas Square transfers from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Enterprise Services. The Director also noted that the intention of the transfer of management is to provide for additional maintenance at a higher frequency given its proximity to the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, which is under the management of the Department of Enterprise Services.

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**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 56

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS, COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

## Voting Members:

Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair; Trevor Ozawa, Vice Chair;  
Brandon J.C. Elefante, Ernest Y. Martin, Kymberly Marcos Pine

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Your Committee received public testimony from two individuals offering comments on the Resolution.

Your Committee also received written testimony from seven individuals in support of the Resolution and from the following institutions, organizations, and governmental agencies:

- Life of the Land (support)
- The Outdoor Circle (support)

Your Committee considered and approved a proposed handcarried CD1 version that makes the following amendments:

- A. Amends the 3rd WHEREAS clause to read as follows:
- B. "WHEREAS, the management of Thomas Square, which is owned by the State, was transferred to the City and County of Honolulu by executive order; and"
- B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

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**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 56

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS, COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

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Your Committee on Parks, Community and Customer Services is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 17-39, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 17-39, CD1. (Ayes: Kobayashi, Elefante, Martin, Ozawa, Pine – 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Committee Chair

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## CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 56



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**RESOLUTION**

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REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION MAINTAIN THOMAS SQUARE AS A PUBLIC PARK.

WHEREAS, Thomas Square is an urban park consisting of approximately 6.4 acres of landscaped lawn, the center of which is marked by a single fountain, and is located across South Beretania Street from the Honolulu Museum of Art; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Square is the State of Hawaii's ("State") first official public park; and

WHEREAS, the management of Thomas Square, which is owned by the State, was transferred to the City and County of Honolulu by executive order; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration purports to completely renovate Thomas Square in its proposed Thomas Square Master Plan ("Plan"), which includes improved landscaping, new bathrooms, a flag pole, a new band stand, and food concessions, by July 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Plan further specifies that the management of Thomas Square would be transferred from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Enterprise Services; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Section 46-65.6, however, requires that Thomas Square "be maintained as a public park"; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of Thomas Square, in its current state as a public park and in accordance with HRS Section 46-65.6, would preserve the natural beauty of the park and would continue to provide residents and visitors with a necessary green and quiet space to enjoy and gather in the Honolulu Civic Center area; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the maintenance of Thomas Square in its current state as a public park is therefore vitally important to the community as a whole; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is requested to maintain Thomas Square as a public park in accordance with HRS Section 46-65.6, to ensure that Thomas Square can be enjoyed as a public park by visitors and residents for generations to come; and



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 17-39, CD1

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**RESOLUTION**

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Director of Enterprise Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ann Kobayashi

Carol Fukunaga

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

February 1, 2017  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers